

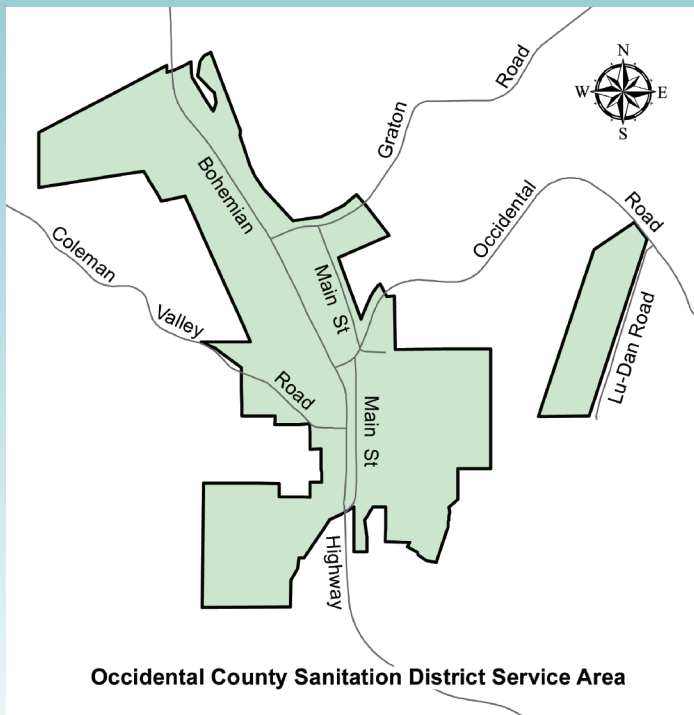
OCCIDENTAL COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT **NEWS**

INSIDE FALL 2013

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Occidental County Sanitation District aeration basin shown above.



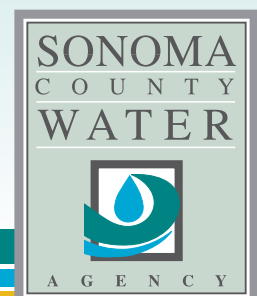
About Your Sanitation District

During a 1995 restructuring of the Sonoma County government, the Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) assumed responsibility for managing and operating 11 different sanitation districts and zones. Currently the Water Agency manages and operates eight different sanitation districts and zones throughout Sonoma County, including the Occidental County Sanitation District (District).

The District began operations in 1950. Currently, its service recipients number 264 Equivalent Single-Family Dwellings within a 55-acre service area.

The sanitation facility has a design capacity of 50,000 gallons per day (average daily dry weather flow) and treats wastewater to a secondary treatment level.

Between May 15 and September 30, the recycled water is utilized for irrigation on private property. Between October 1 and May 14, recycled water is discharged into Dutch Bill Creek. ●



www.sonomacountywater.org/occidental

New Storage Solutions

The District is currently out of compliance with its North Coast RWQCB permit. The District discharges secondary treated wastewater to Graham's Pond, which is considered to be the headwaters of Dutch Bill Creek (a tributary to the Russian River). The District must update its current operations to protect water quality in Dutch Bill Creek.

Based on community input, the District is currently looking for a solution that does not involve storing recycled water in Graham's Pond or applying recycled water on the Loades property. A public meeting will be held this fall to discuss alternatives. For more information, please contact Ann DuBay, Principal Program Specialist, at ann.dubay@scwa.ca.gov. •

Regulatory Compliance

Wide-ranging regulatory standards for public health and the environment are set by the California State Water Resources Control Board and in turn implemented through the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB).

The District operates under a unique, individualized permit from the North Coast RWQCB that sets the requirements for wastewater operations and recycled water use.

Complying with these often-costly regulations result in District capital improvement projects and increased rates.

For more information about the California Water Boards, go to this website link: www.waterboards.ca.gov. •

Free Sewer Pipe Private Building Lateral Replacement Program for Occidental Customers

District property owners are responsible for cleaning, maintaining and replacing the lateral sewer pipes that connect their homes or businesses to the sewer main (which are owned and maintained by the District). Many of the lateral sewer pipes in the District are old, and are at risk for leaking raw sewage into the ground, causing plumbing problems in your home or business and contributing stormwater inflow to the sewer system during wet weather. Starting this fall, the District is offering to replace - for FREE (including materials and installation) - poor-performing laterals. Customers will receive letters detailing the program, or contact Curran Price at curran.price@scwa.ca.gov or 707.524.1179. •

Budget Update

The budget year starts on July 1 of each year and runs through June 30 of the following year. For District customers, the Fiscal Year 2013/2014 flat rate fee is \$1,783 per year per "equivalent single-family dwelling" (ESD). For more information, contact Manuel Olvera, Engineering Technician III, or Candi Bryon, Department Analyst, at 707.526.5370. •

Stormwater Inflow

"Stormwater inflow" is a term that refers to excessive rain-water, especially occurring during heavy storms. When stormwater enters the wastewater system, it must be treated like sanitary waste, resulting in higher treatment costs. Also, sewer backups and overflows that harm the environment may occur.

You can help prevent stormwater inflow by inspecting roof gutters and downspouts. Disconnect them if they are connected to the sewer system. Instead, direct downspouts onto yards and gardens. Also, please report loose manhole covers by calling the Water Agency's 24-hour emergency hotline at 707.523.1070. •

How to Contact Your Board

The District's Board of Directors is the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Your Board members and their e-mail addresses include the following:

- First District Supervisor/Director Susan Gorin — Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org
- Second District Supervisor/Director David Rabbitt — David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org
- Third District Supervisor/Director Shirlee Zane — Shirlee.Zane@sonoma-county.org
- Fourth District Supervisor/Director Mike McGuire — MikeMcguire@sonoma-county.org
- Fifth District Supervisor/Director Efren Carrillo — Efren.Carrillo@sonoma-county.org

Directors may also be contacted by phone: 707.565.2241 and fax: 707.565.3778.

The Board normally holds its regular meetings on Tuesdays, beginning at 8:30 a.m., in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 575 Administration Drive, Room 102A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. For more information, go online to www.sonomacountywater.org/board-of-directors. •

Employee Spotlight: Senior Plant Operator

Job Described as a 'Craft'

Sylvan Eidelman described being a senior plant operator at the Water Agency as a craft that involves not only technical aspects but also the necessary experience and knowledge to perform the job properly.

Sylvan began his journey to the Water Agency with a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Sonoma State. Sylvan calls himself a "hands-on type of person," which suited him to carrying out the Water Agency's dual role of providing both drinking water and wastewater services.

To qualify as a senior plant operator, he has the requisite certifications from both the California Department of Public Health



and State Water Resources Control Board. In addition, he must renew his license every three years and take 25 units of continuing education credits.

One part of a 14-member team, Sylvan emphasized that plant operators must stay current in all of the Water Agency's drinking water and wastewater treatment plants and that their shifts continuously rotate to ensure their expertise in all locations. He said he has a "sense of pride" in his job and is "very, very proud of the work we do."

He encouraged others, especially students, to think about a career in the drinking water and wastewater fields. ●

Watch What You Flush

To keep household and community sewer systems operating around the clock with maintenance costs kept to a minimum, your District asks customers to please do not use their toilets as trash cans. To put it as tactfully as possible, human waste and toilet paper should be all that's flushed down the toilet.

Topping the list of the biggest offenders that should never be flushed down the toilet (even if the product's packaging says "flushable" or "disposable") are wet wipes, diapers, dental floss, facial tissues, paper towels, coffee grounds, sanitary products (including plastic tampon applicators), underwear, toys, medicine and medications, makeup, hair, seeds, grease, kitty box litter and cigarette butts.

The Water Agency and other partners sponsor the Safe Medicine Disposal Program to allow for the safe disposal of unused and unwanted medications. To find the closest drop-off location to you, visit www.safemedicinedisposal.org or contact Susan Keach, Environmental Compliance Inspector, at 707.521.1820 or susan.keach@scwa.ca.gov. ●

Social Media Opens Up Communications

The Water Agency has an active social media communications program, including a website with a special section for District customers at www.sonomacountywater.org/occidental. ●

Never Pour FOG Down Sink

You can do your part to help prevent sanitary sewer overflows by properly disposing of fats, oils and grease, referred to as "FOG".

FOG, which among other items includes frying and cooking oils, salad dressings, soups, meat trimmings and bacon fat, often gets washed into the public sewer system through the kitchen sink.

FOG should never be poured down the drain because it can adhere to the insides of household and local sewer pipes, clog them and cause sewer backups, and/or overflows into the environment, and increased customer sewer rates to pay for sewer maintenance and plumbing repairs.



A sewer line clogged with fat and grease.

Your District provides FREE grease scrapers to help you keep FOG from going down the drain. Call the Water Agency Public Affairs Hotline at 707.524.6430. ●

Occidental County Sanitation District
c/o Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa CA 95403

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High-Efficiency Fixture Program

The District offers a limited number of high-efficiency fixture retrofits at no cost to all properties with active sewer connections. The High-Efficiency Fixture Direct Install Program includes toilet, urinal, faucet aerator and showerhead replacements.

To participate, you must register your property on the program wait list.

Properties will be selected on a first come, first served basis based on funding availability. For more information or to register, go online to www.sonomacountywater.org/direct-install to sign up on the waiting list or call the Water Efficiency Program at 707.547.1918. ●



Water Efficiency Rebate Program

District customers may participate in the following Rebate Program:

Clothes Washer Rebate – Receive up to \$125 back on the purchase and installation of a new, qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer (HEW). Rebates are available for all “Tier 3” listed clothes washers except those containing silver ion technology.

Toilet Rebate – Get up to \$150 back on the purchase and installation of each new, qualifying high-efficiency toilet (HET) from the List of Qualifying Models.

Rebates on high-efficiency clothes washers and toilets are available on a first come, first served basis through June 30, 2014, while funding lasts. For more information, call the Water Efficiency Program at 707.547.1918 or go online to www.sonomacountywater.org/sanitation-rebates. ●

Securing our Future by Investing in our Water Resources, Environment & Community

www.sonomacountywater.org

